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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Jeffrey A. Heroux, et al

Atty. Ref.: 2528-2

Serial No. 09/023,483

Group: 1643

Filed: February 13, 1998

Examiner:

For: ASSAY METHODS FOR NUCLEIC

ACID IN A SAMPLE

June 24, 1998

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for

examination, please amend the application as follows:

GROUP 180

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12, line 1 of each, delete "2, 3, 4, or 5".

Claim 8, line 1, delete "2, 3 or 5".

Claim 13, line 1, delete "or 5".